

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 26, 42, 43, 49, 50 and 82 are pending in the application.

The Examiner asserted that the application includes claims that are directed to five allegedly patentably distinct species of a storage case embodiment, viz.,

1. A storage case species shown in FIGS. 1-22;
2. A storage case species shown in FIG. 23;
3. A storage case species shown in FIGS. 24-36 and 40-43;
4. A storage case species shown in FIG. 52; and
5. A storage case species shown in FIGS. 58-60.

The Examiner asserted that the application includes claims that are directed to five allegedly distinct species of a lock, viz.,

1. A lock species shown in FIGS. 12-16e;
2. A lock species shown in FIGS. 37-39;
3. A lock species shown in FIGS. 44-47;
4. A lock species shown in FIG. 48;
5. A lock species shown in FIGS. 49-50;
6. A lock species shown in FIGS. 53-55;
7. A lock species shown in FIG. 56; and
8. A lock species shown in FIG. 57.

The Examiner stated that it is not clear which claims are generic.

Applicants' Reply

Applicants hereby elect storage case species 1 (FIGS. 1-22) and lock species 1 (FIGS. 12-16e) for prosecution at this time. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 26, 42, 49, 50 and 82 read on the elected case

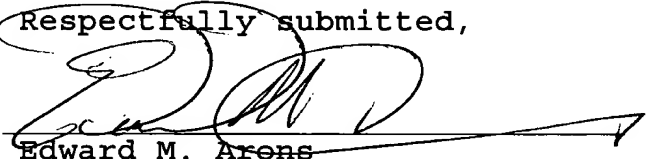
and lock species and that claim 43 reads on the elected case species.

Applicants understand that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of the generic claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that at least claims 26, 42 and 82 are generic.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward M. Arens', is written over a horizontal line.

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